

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:  
LEANDRO ARECHEDERRA  
EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY  
LAW TECHNOLOGY  
P. O. BOX 219  
BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

Date of Mailing  
(day/month/year) 26 APR 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

2003B133E

REPLY DUE

within 1 months/days from  
the above date of mailing

International application No.

PCT/US03/41221

International filing date (day/month/year)

19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)

Priority date (day/month/year)

20 December 2002 (20.12.2002)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC(7): C08F 2/06, 4/44, 4/64, 4/68 and US Cl.: 526/70, 90, 125.7, 144, 185, 206, 226

Applicant

EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS INC.

1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2 (a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

**When?** See the time limit indicated above. ~~The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension. See rule 66.2(d).~~

**How?** By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

**Also** For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.  
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.  
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6

**If no reply is filed**, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.

4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 20 April 2005 (20.04.2005)

ACKNOWLEDGED  
PATENT LEGAL ASSISTANT GROUP  
G. M. CARROLL

APR 29 2005

☒ FYI  
☐ Reminder  
☐ File  
EMCLT  
BAYTOWN

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US  
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/ US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Roberto Rábago

Telephone No. (571) 272-1700

DEBORAH A. THOMAS  
PARALEGAL SPECIALIST

GROUP 1500

**I. Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:  
 pages 1-106, as originally filed  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:  
 pages 107-121, as originally filed  
 pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:  
 pages 1-8, as originally filed  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
 pages NONE, as originally filed  
 pages NONE, filed with the demand  
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed."

WRITTEN OPINION

International Application No.  
PCT/US03/41221

**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>6,13,16,30-50 and 54</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-5,7-12,14,15,17-29,51-53 and 55-62</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>6,13,16,30-50 and 54</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-5,7-12,14,15,17-29,51-53 and 55-62</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-62</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

**2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-15, 17-29, 51-53 and 55-62 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Konig et al. (US 4,501,865). The reference discloses a polymerization method comprising a hydrofluorocarbon diluent in a stirred autoclave reactor wherein the polymerization medium is evaporated during polymerization (col. 2, line 49 through col. 5, line 68, also patented claim 1). Although not shown in the working examples, the use of a hydrofluorocarbon diluent is specifically suggested in the cited text. Therefore, the claims lack novelty over this reference.

Claims 1-5, 7, 18-29, 52-53 and 55-62 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Suling et al. (US 4,255,546). The reference discloses a polymerization method comprising a hydrofluorocarbon diluent in a stirred autoclave reactor wherein the polymerization medium is refluxed during polymerization (col. 2, line 22 through col. 5, line 42, also patented claims 1-6). Although not shown in the working examples, the use of a hydrofluorocarbon diluent is specifically suggested in the cited text. Therefore, the claims lack novelty over this reference.

Claims 1-62 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.  
PCT/96/41221

**Supplemental Box**

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

**TIME LIMIT:**

The time limit set for response to a Written Opinion may not be extended. 37 CFR 1.484(d). Any response received after the expiration of the time limit set in the Written Opinion will not be considered in preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

LAA/JSZ  
201  
Gmc

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
LEANDRO ARECHEDERRA  
EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY  
LAW TECHNOLOGY  
P.O. BOX 2149  
BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149

## PCT

### NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003B133E	Date of Mailing (day/month/year)
International application No. PCT/US03/41221	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)
Applicant EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS INC.	

1. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

**Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46).

**When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmission of the international search report.

**Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

**For more detailed instructions,** see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90 bis.1 and 90 bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

ACKNOWLEDGED  
 PATENT ASSISTANT GROUP  
 T. N. KEYES  
 NOV 10 2004  
 EMCLT  
 BAYTOWN

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Roberto Rábago

Telephone No. (571) 272-1700

*J. Whitefield*  
*for*

Form PCT/ISA/220 (April 2002)

**RECEIVED**  
 NOV 09 2004  
 EMCLT BPC  
 BAYTOWN

(See notes on accompanying sheet)

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
LEANDRO ARECHEDERRA  
EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY  
LAW TECHNOLOGY  
P.O. BOX 2149  
BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149

## PCT

### NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003B133E	Date of Mailing (day/month/year) <b>05 NOV 2004</b>
International application No. PCT/US03/41221	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)
Applicant EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS IN.	

1. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

**Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

**When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

**Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.  
☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90 *bis*.1 and 90 *bis*.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Roberto Rábago Telephone No. (571) 272-1700 
---	--

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US03/41221	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)	(Earliest) Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 20 December 2002 (20.12.2002)
Applicant EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS IN.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 2 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the Report**

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. \_\_\_\_\_



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/41221

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C08F 2/06,4/44,4/64,4/68

US CL : 526/70,90,125.7,144,185,206,226

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 526/70,90,125.7,144,185,206,226

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
EAST

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,501,865 A (KONIG et al.) 26 February 1985 (26.02.1985) col. 2, line 49 through col. 5, line 68.	1-5,7-15,17-29,51-53,55,58-62
X	US 4,255,546 A (SULING et al.) 10 March 1981 (10.03.1981) col. 2, line 22 through col. 5, line 42.	1-5,7-15,18-29,52-53,55-62
A	US 4,248,988 A (HALASA) 02 February 1981 (03.02.1981) entire document.	1-62
A	US 2,548,415 A (WELCH et al.) 10 April 1951(10.04.1951) entire document.	1-62

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 October 2004 (19.10.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 NOV 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Roberto Rábago

Telephone No. (571) 272-1700



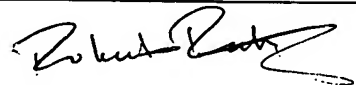
## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

FILE COPY

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003B133E	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US03/41221	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 December 2002 (20.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): C08F 2/06, 4/44, 4/64, 4/68 and US Cl.: 526/70,90,125.7, 144,185,206,226		
Applicant MILNER ET AL.		
<p>1. <del>This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</del></p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of ___ sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of ___ sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 16 July 2004 (16.07.2004)	Date of completion of this report 22 June 2005 (22.06.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/ US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Roberto Rabago  Telephone No. (571) 272-1700	

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/41221

FILE COPY

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:  
pages 1-106 as originally filed  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ the claims:  
pages 108-121, as originally filed  
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages 107, filed with the letter of 27 May 2005 (27.05.2005).
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages 1-8, as originally filed  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages NONE, as originally filed  
pages NONE, filed with the demand  
pages NONE, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US03/41221

FILE COPY

**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-61</u>	YES
	Claims <u>62</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-61</u>	YES
	Claims <u>62</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-62</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

**2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Claim 62 lacks novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by each individually of Konig et al. (US 4,501,865) and Suling et al. (US 4,255,546). The claim recites a polymer which is devoid of any specific properties, described only in the broad context of its method of manufacture, which itself is substantially unlimited. Accordingly, there is nothing on this record which would indicate that the polymers within the scope of those disclosed and exemplified in the cited references are not within the scope of those claimed. Therefore, the claim lacks novelty.

Claims 1-61 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the process wherein the polymerization is a cationic polymerization. As discussed in the prior written opinion, each of Konig et al. (US 4,501,865) and Suling et al. (US 4,255,546) disclose polymerization methods comprising HFC diluent wherein the polymerization medium is evaporated during polymerization. However, these references do not disclose cationic polymerization in combination with these conditions.

Claims 1-62 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----